

penetrating path and an opening portion provided at a nuclear reactor building roof.

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Concluded

2. (Amended) A method of claim 1, wherein said protective measure is provided with a guide used for carrying said nuclear reactor pressure vessel out or in.

3. (Twice amended) A method of claim 1, wherein said protective measure is provided with a cushioning member inside thereof for minimizing effects of an impact of said nuclear reactor pressure vessel.

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments which eliminate the objectionable language, the same should be entered and deemed to fully address the rejection of Claims 1-3 under 35 USC § 112, ¶ 2.

The rejection of Claims 1-3 as being anticipated by Hasegawa et al. under 35 USC § 102(b) is traversed, and reconsideration is requested.

The present invention carries out the nuclear reactor pressure vessel via a passage passing through in the protective measure in its height direction from a pedestal to outside the nuclear reactor building. Thereby, potential mechanical damage to the used fuel pool by the nuclear reactor pressure vessel when carrying out the nuclear reactor pressure vessel is prevented.

Because the nuclear reactor pressure vessel is carried in or out via the penetrating passage or path formed in the protective measure, even if the lifted

object (i.e., the nuclear reactor pressure vessel) is dropped for some reasons, mechanical damage to the used fuel pool can be prevented with certainty.

Applicants propose to incorporate in claim 1 above the features that the protective measure includes the passage or path passing through the same in its height direction and a nuclear reactor pressure vessel is carried out or in through the passage and the opening formed at the roof of the nuclear reactor building.

In the Hasegawa et al. patent, the protective measure (64, 63) is provided with no passage passing through in its height direction. First, the cask 41 is lifted by approaching the cask 41 to the opening 61 through the large scale lifting machine 91 and holding the lifting balance 51 under this condition. The hoisting machine 52 and the cask 41 are enclosed by a sheet which is installed sealable to four sides of the opening 41 (column 10, lines 34-42). Therefore, when lifting the object near to the opening and while holding the same under this condition when enclosing the cask with the sheet, potential mechanical damage to the used fuel pool is possible. Accordingly, the Hasegawa et al. method does not teach or even suggest the claimed method.

Accordingly, entry of the proposed amendments and favorable action upon Claims 1-3 are earnestly solicited.

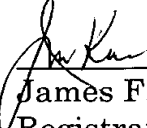
If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and

please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit
Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #381NP/50366).

Respectfully submitted,

December 23, 2002



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Twice amended) A method [of] for handling a [large scale structural body in which an opening portion is provided at a roof of a] nuclear reactor [building] pressure vessel, comprising [the steps of] providing a protective measure for a used fuel pool in a nuclear reactor well, said protective measure having a penetrating path therein and [then] carrying [the large scale structural body such as a] out or in said nuclear reactor pressure vessel [and an internal reactor structural body out or in] through [the] said penetrating path and an opening portion provided at a nuclear reactor building roof.

2. (Amended) A method of claim 1, wherein [the] said protective measure is provided with a guide used for carrying said nuclear reactor pressure vessel out [/] or in [of the large scale structural body].

3. (Twice amended) A method of claim 1, wherein [the] said protective measure is provided with a cushioning member inside thereof for minimizing [the effect] effects of an impact of [the large scale structural body] said nuclear reactor pressure vessel.